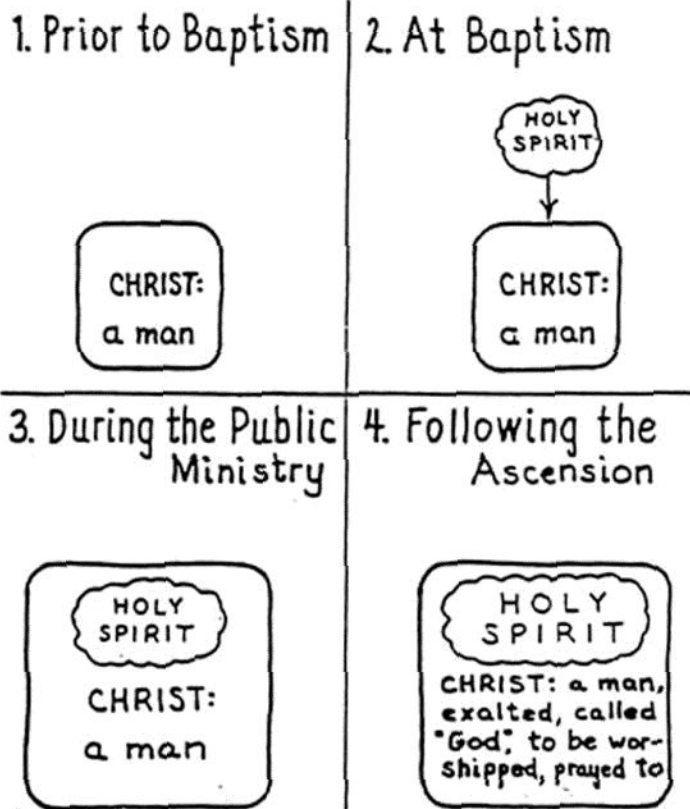


11. The Socinians

Lelio Sozzini (Laelius Socinus), A.D. 1525-1562, and his nephew Fausto Sozzini (Faustus Socinus), A.D. 1539-1604, of Siena, Italy, championed a view of Christ which held that He was a man who was baptized with the Holy Spirit, lived a unique life of exemplary obedience, and was filled with divine wisdom. He was rewarded with a resurrection; and following His ascension was exalted to a kind of delegated divinity, so that He is now to be called God, prayed to, and worshipped.

The theology of the Socinians has come down to the present day (in a modified expression) in the form of Unitarianism.

SOCINIANISM



12. The View of Schleiermacher

Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher (A.D. 1768-1834) held the highest conception of Jesus as a man. Although Jesus was not virgin born, nevertheless God constituted His Person by a creative act, elevating His human nature to the plane of ideal (human) perfection. Thus there was no hereditary depravity in Him, or any sinful tendencies. He was the second Adam, the new spiritual head of the race, the perfectly religious man, the fountain of all religion. He enjoyed a special presence of God in Him, a supreme God-consciousness, a perfect and unbroken sense of union with the divine. He lived a life of perfect obedience and sinless perfection. He is capable of animating and sustaining the higher life of all mankind; and through a living faith in Him all men may become (as He was) perfectly religious.